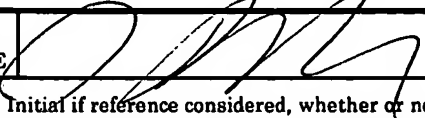


|   |                               |                        |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>FORM PTO-1449</b><br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b><br><br><b>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><br>(use as many sheets as necessary) | <b>Attorney D ck t Numb r</b> | 45914/DBP/M521         |
|   | <b>Application Number</b>     | N/A 10/019148          |
|   | <b>Filing Date</b>            | December 21, 2001      |
|   | <b>Applicant(s)</b>           | Herbert Becker, et al. |
|   | <b>Group Art Unit</b>         | N/A                    |
|   | <b>Examiner Name</b>          | N/A                    |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |                 |            |                  |       |          |                            |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| EXAMINER INITIALS     | DOCUMENT NUMBER | ISSUE DATE | PATENTEE         | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| 1M                    | 5,315,194       | 05/1994    | Brusasco, et al. | 310   | 68 R     |                            |
| 1M                    | 6,291,912       | 09/2001    | Nadir, et al.    | 310   | 64       |                            |
| 1M                    | 6,317,332       | 11/2001    | Weber, et al.    | 361   | 760      |                            |
|                       |                 |            |                  |       |          |                            |
|                       |                 |            |                  |       |          |                            |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                 |                  |                          |       |          |                                     |    |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------------|----|
| EXAMINER INITIALS        | DOCUMENT NUMBER | PUBLICATION DATE | COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION                         |    |
|                          |                 |                  |                          |       |          | YES                                 | NO |
| 1M                       | 198 51 455      |                  | GERMANY (ON ORDER)       |       |          | Corresponds to U.S. 6,317,332 Above |    |
| 1M                       | 198 23 376      | 11/1999 /        | GERMANY                  |       |          | Partial Translation                 |    |
| 1M                       | 0 474 904       |                  | EPO (ON ORDER)           |       |          | Partial Translation Only            |    |
| 1M                       | 2 766 301       | 01/1999 /        | FRANCE                   |       |          | Corresponds to U.S. 6,291,912 Above |    |
|                          |                 |                  |                          |       |          |                                     |    |

| OTHER DOCUMENTS   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| EXAMINER INITIALS | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article, title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. |
|                   | International Search Report of PCT/DE01/01597, Mailed August 23, 2001.   |
|                   |  |
|                   |  |

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| EXAMINER SIGNATURE   | DATE CONSIDERED |
|   | 07/02/04        |
| EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. |                 |

Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DBP/aam

AAM PAS403920.1\*-12/21/01 11:15 AM